

Louis Theriault ■643 Yorkshire Drive■Oviedo, FL 32765-8159

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

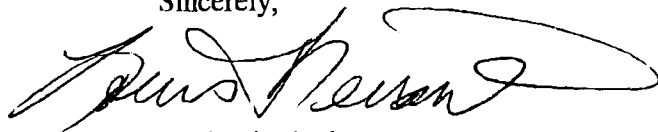
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Take a moment to reflect on what the breakup of ATT did to the phone industry. It created very poor phone service and drastically reduced innovation. If ATT were still together people would be looking and talking to each other over the connection instead of only talking to each other. This hindered innovation is a direct result of the breakup of ATT because it caused them to divert their attention from long overdue innovation.

The same is true in Microsoft's case. Though I am glad that there has been no decision to break up Microsoft, the mere thought that this was considered is appalling. The way I see it, if I ran a company that was unable to keep up with my competition then the fault is mine and not my stronger competitor. I should therefore seek to strengthen my stance in the industry rather than seek corporate welfare from the government. Indeed, seeking the government's help to break up a company for your advantage only is a pitiful thing and I think the government should put a stop to it immediately!

Look at all that Microsoft has conceded in this case. They have agreed to grant competitors greater access to Windows by creating new versions. In addition, they have agreed to give computer makers more flexibility to reconfigure Windows for interoperability with non-Microsoft software. In light of all the varied factors of this case and Microsoft's spirit of cooperation, please put an end to litigation in the interest of fairness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Theriault", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Louis Theriault